

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 /078 W

----- 129355

R 101221Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9253

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ET, SU, IT

SUBJECT: RAS MENGESHA IN SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 2835 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE QUOTE FOREIGN RADIO REPORT UNQUOTE (NOT HEARD BY US OR UK EMBASSIES HERE) THAT UNIDENTIFIED ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNOR HAS ENTERED SUDAN WITH ONE HUNDRED ARMED FOLLOWERS PREPARED TO FIGHT ETHIOPIAN ARMY, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT BAGHIR ISSUED STATEMENT LATE JAN. 9 TO GIVE "FACTS." BAGHIR CONFIRMED THAT RAS MENGESHA ARRIVED IN SUDAN ON NOV. 3, 1974 ACCOMPANIED BY FAMILY MEMBERS BUT SAID NOBODY ELSE, ARMED OR UNARMED. BAGHIR ADDED THAT MENGESHA'S PRESENCE IN SUDAN IS IN ACCORD WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW, THAT HE HAS PRACTICED NO HOSTILE ACTIVITY TOWARD ETHIOPIA WHILE HERE, AND THAT THE EPMG IS AWARE OF THESE FACTS.

2. SENIOR SUDANESE MILITARY OFFICER, WHO SAID FALSE REPORT HAD COME FROM BBC, CONFIRMED TO AMB. JAN 9 THAT MENGESHA IN SUDAN AND SAID GOS WOULD TAKE NO STEPS RETURN HIM TO ETHIOPIA. OFFICER ADDED THAT MENGESHA WAS FREE TO TRAVEL
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TO EUROPE IF HE DESIRED. THIS CONNECTION, BRITISH HERE TELL

US ITALIAN FONOFF HAS ADVISED UK EMBASSY ROME THAT MENGESHA WANTS TO VISIT ITALY (AS REPORTED REFTEL). ITALIANS REPORTEDLY UNCOMFORTABLE OVER PROSPECT.

3. WITH RESPECT SUDANESE EFFORTS MEDIATE BETWEEN PMAC AND ELF, FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID OVERHEARD FEW DAYS AGO CLAIMING IN CHARACTERISTIC FASHION CREDIT FOR MORE MODERATE LINE PUT OUT RECENTLY BY PMAC. WE ASSUME NIMEIRI TALK WITH BERHANU BAYEW (KHARTOUM 0060 - NOTAL) MORE INFLUENTIAL. AT SAME TIME, WE NOTE THAT AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE FAKHR AL-DIN MUHAMMED STILL DELAYING HIS OVERDUE DEPARTURE FOR ADDIS, WHICH MAY BE FORM MILD SUDANESE PRESSURE FOR MORE CONCRETE PMAC STEPS TOWARD PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ERITREAN PROBLEM. BREWER

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